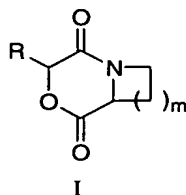


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



5 R is

- a) C₁₋₆ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C₆₋₁₀ aryl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or
 b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; and

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m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

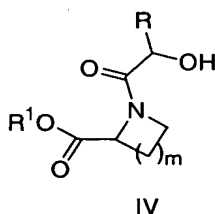
2. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is unsubstituted C₁₋₆ alkyl.

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3. The compound of claim 2 wherein R is tert butyl.

4. The compound of claim 1 wherein m is 1.

5. A compound of formula IV or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



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R is

- a) C₁₋₆ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C₆₋₁₀ aryl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

- b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino;

R¹ is

- 5 a) C₁₋₆ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C₆₋₁₀ aryl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino;
 b) benzyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or
 c) hydrogen; and
 10 m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5.

6. The compound of claim 5 wherein R is unsubstituted C₁₋₆ alkyl.

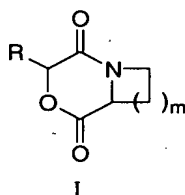
7. The compound of claim 6 wherein R is tert butyl and m is 1.

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8. The compound of claim 5 wherein R¹ is methyl and m is 1.

9. A process of preparing a compound of formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

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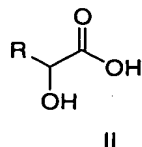
wherein

R is

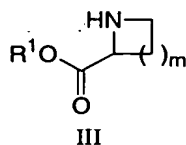
- 25 a) C₁₋₆ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C₆₋₁₀ aryl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or
 b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; and

m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, comprising

- 30 1) coupling a hydroxy acid of formula II



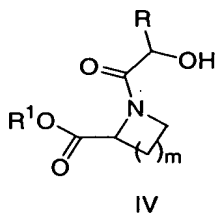
in presence of a peptide coupling reagent with a compound of formula III or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



5 wherein

R¹ is

- a) C₁₋₆ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C₆₋₁₀ aryl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino;
 - b) benzyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected
 - 10 from C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or
 - c) hydrogen;
- to produce a hydroxyamide of formula IV;



15 2) cyclizing the hydroxyamide of formula IV in the presence of an acid to produce formula I.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein R is unsubstituted C₁₋₆ alkyl.

11. The process of claim 10 wherein R is tert butyl and m=1.

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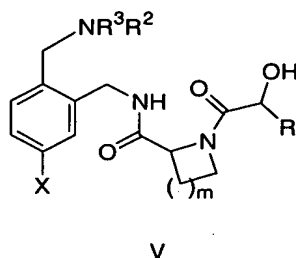
12. The process of claim 9 wherein R¹ is methyl and m is 1.

13. The process of claim 9 wherein the peptide coupling reagent is 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride.

14. The process of claim 9 wherein the acid is toluene sulfonic acid.

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15. A process of preparing a compound of general formula V



wherein

R is

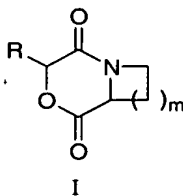
- 10 a) C₁₋₆ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C₆₋₁₀ aryl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or
- b) 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino group;

15 R² is an amino protecting group;

m, is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and

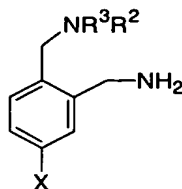
X is a halogen selected from the group consisting of F, Br, I, or Cl; comprising

1) coupling a compound of formula I,



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in the presence of a solvent, with a compound of the general formula



to form a compound of formula V.

16. The process of claim 15 wherein R^2 is tert butoxy carbonyl or carbobenzoxy.

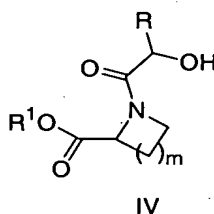
17. The process of claim 15 wherein R is unsubstituted C_{1-6} alkyl.

18. The process of claim 17 wherein R is tert butyl.

19. The process of claim 15 wherein the solvent is a polar solvent selected from the group of consisting of triethylamine, isopropyl alcohol, N-methyl pyrrolidinone, dimethylformamide, diisopropylethylamine, CH_3CN , and tetrahydrofuran.

20. The process of claim 15 wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

21. A process of preparing a compound of formula IV or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



wherein

R is

- a) C_{1-6} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

b) a 6-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring system, unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; and

m is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and

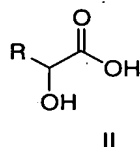
5 R¹ is

a) C₁₋₆ alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two, or three groups independently selected from C₆₋₁₀ aryl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino;

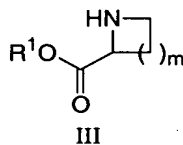
b) benzyl unsubstituted or substituted with one, two or three groups independently selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, halogen, and amino; or

10 c) hydrogen;

comprising coupling a hydroxy acid of formula II



in presence of a peptide coupling reagent, with a compound of formula III or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



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to produce a compound of formula IV.